

a stage formed at least at a portion of an external circumference of the optical filter by varying a size of a surface of said first filter layer along a direction perpendicular to the optical axis from a size of a surface of said second filter layer along a direction perpendicular to the optical axis.

3. (Amended) An optical filter according to claim 2, wherein:
said stage is utilized to hold the optical filter.

5. (Amended) An optical device comprising:
a photoelectric conversion device that converts a subject image formed at a light-receiving surface thereof to an electric signal;
an optical system that forms the subject image with a light flux from a subject at the light-receiving surface of said photoelectric conversion device;
an optical filter that is provided on an optical path between said photoelectric conversion device and said optical system to filter the light flux; and
a holding member that holds said optical filter, wherein:
said optical filter comprises a stage formed at least at a portion of an external circumference of the optical filter and said stage is utilized to hold said optical filter with said holding member.

Please add the following claims 7-11:

- 7. An optical filter according to claim 2, wherein:
said first filter layer is located at a side closer to the subject than said second filter layer; and
a size of a surface of said first filter layer is smaller than a size of a surface of said second filter layer.--
- 8. An optical filter according to claim 2, wherein:
said first filter layer and said second filter layer are pasted to each other.--

--9. An optical filter according to claim 2, wherein:

said first filter layer is composed of a material more expensive than a material of said second filter layer; and

a size of a surface of said first filter layer is smaller than a size of a surface of said second filter layer.--

--10. An optical filter according to claim 2, wherein:

said second filter layer is composed of a material stronger than a strength of a material of said first filter layer; and

a size of a surface of said first filter layer is smaller than a size of a surface of said second filter layer.--

--11. An optical device according to claim 5, wherein:

said holding member achieves positioning of said optical filter in a plane perpendicular to the optical axis--

REMARKS

Claims 2, 3 and 5-11 are pending. By this Amendment, claims 2, 3 and 5 are amended, claims 1 and 4 are cancelled, and claims 7-11 are added. The attached Appendix includes marked-up copies of each rewritten claim (37 C.F.R. §1.121(c)(ii)).

Claims 2 and 4 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. Claim 2 has been rewritten in independent form, and has been further amended for clarity. Claim 2 recites that the plurality of filter layers include at least a first filter layer and a second filter layer that are laminated with each other. Applicant submits that claim 2 has not been narrowed in that "a plurality of filter layers" would include at least first and second filter layers. Applicant respectfully submits that one having ordinary skill in the art would readily understand claim 2 and how an optical filter can have a plurality of filter layers, particularly after having read the